FD-36 (Rev. 5-22-64)

FBI

Date: 5/3/68

Transmit the following in _____ (Type in plaintext or code)

Via AIRTEL AIR MAIL (Priority)

Mr. Tolson
Mr. DeLoach
Mr. Mohr
Mr. Bishop
Mr. Casper
Mr. Callahan
Mr. Conrad
Mr. Felt
Mr. Gale
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Sullivan
Mr. Tavel
Mr. Trotter
Tele. Room
Miss Holmes
Miss Gandy

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)

FROM: SAC, SAN FRANCISCO (173-65)

SUBJECT: MURKIN

Re San Francisco teletype to the Director, 5/2/68.

SUSPECT [redacted] aka [redacted]

For information of offices not previously having information concerning [redacted] he is considered possible suspect and co-conspirator because of an alleged offer [redacted] to furnish airline tickets and untraceable weapon [redacted] travel to unspecified place to kill certain designated Negro leaders including MARTIN LUTHER KING.

The reliability and credibility [redacted] is unknown but is considered subject to doubt because of discrepancies of his stories, and because of information received from other sources.

[redacted] has been extremely active in affairs of the American Independent Party in California, prompting GEORGE WALLACE for president.

AGENTS IN INTERVIEWS SHOULD EXERCISE DISCRETION AND CAUTION TO PREVENT ANY FALSE ALLEGATIONS THAT THE FBI IS CONDUCTING INVESTIGATION CONCERNING ACTIVITIES OF THE AIP.

(3) - Bureau (RM)
1 - Birmingham (Info.) (AM)(RM)
2 - Los Angeles (AM)(RM)
2 - Knoxville (AM)(RM)
2 - Memphis (44-1987)(AM)(RM)
2 - Mobile (AM)(RM)
2 - Sacramento (AM)(RM)
4 - San Francisco
WW: cmg
(18) C. C. - Bishop

REC-12 44-38861-3069

25 MAY 8 1968

EX 106

Approved: _____ Sent _____ M Per _____
Special Agent in Charge

79 MAY 14 1968

(76)

[redacted], commonly known as [redacted] was interviewed at his apartment, [redacted] San Leandro, California. After proper identification, he was advised that investigation was being conducted by the Federal Bureau of Investigation concerning a violation of Federal Law in connection with the murder of Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING. Further, that an allegation had been received that [redacted] might have information pertinent to this matter on the basis of remarks [redacted] is reported to have made concerning such matters in the presence of others.

[redacted] advised that he has no information concerning the murder, and except for his personal opinion as to who might be responsible, has no specific information concerning the murder. He said he had absolutely no objection to discussion of the matter.

[redacted] advised that he is extremely active in the political field at the present time and in the recent past. He is a member of [redacted] the American Independent Party (AIP) in California, and particularly in behalf of the candidacy of former Governor GEORGE WALLACE of Alabama for President. He stated that most persons not familiar with the AIP program and objectives, seem to assume that those favoring AIP are what is sometimes termed "negro-baiters." He denied that this is true, and said that from the view point of promoting the AIP, the murder of Dr. KING under such circumstances was a set back to the AIP who might have favored their principles.

He said that no one knowledgeable in affairs of the AIP would have caused or participated in a situation or action such as this in that it would be certain to make a "Martyr" of Dr. KING, which would hurt the AIP.

However, since persons generally seem to associate AIP members with "negro-baiters," he is frequently "kidded" along such lines by certain persons with whom he regularly comes into contact.

He said that in recent months he has regularly frequented the Blue Dolphin, a San Leandro restaurant, and in fact assisted in arranging a couple of luncheons there in honor of WALLACE. Therefore, he has become acquainted with the owner of the Blue Dolphin, BILL PELUSO, and with many of the employees, including the bartenders.

When he goes to the cafe, he frequently goes to the bar and the bartenders frequently "kid" him concerning some current event involving Negroes or the AIP. This has been going on for several months, and everything said has been in jest.

However, he speculated that some person hearing such conversation might misinterpret the conversation, and draw a conclusion which would not be warranted.

In connection with Dr. KING's murder, he recalls such a conversation in the bar of the Blue Dolphin either the same night Dr. KING was killed, or possibly the evening after that.

As he recalled he had been driving on the Nimitz Freeway in Oakland, about 5:00 pm the night of the murder, April 4, 1968, when he first heard the announcement on the car radio.

When next visiting the Blue Dolphin, he recalled one of the employees greeting him with the comment "Well, I see you got him," or some similar comment. He believed he replied that "It wasn't me."

The next comment dealt with "How did you get back from Memphis so soon?"

As he recalled, he made some facetious remark such as "There's planes leaving every hour."

He again stated that the above conversation was strictly in the nature of "kidding," and except for the actual specific subject matter, was very similar to other comments made at the same place on numerous occasions.

He believed that these comments could have been misconstrued by someone who heard them, if the listener did not understand the circumstances or attached some literal interpretation to the remarks.

SF 173-65
WH:ay

[redacted] said that he had no objection to furnishing his whereabouts on March 29,30, 1968 and April 4, 1968, and to furnishing independent substantiation if he could.

Relative to the date April 4, 1968, [redacted] said that he could definitely establish his whereabouts on that date. He stated that he left the Bay Area in his own car sometime between 7:00 and 9:00 am, drove to Berkeley, California, where he picked up a real estate dealer named [redacted] telephone [redacted] They then proceeded to Oroville, California, to look at some real estate which they were considering for investment purposes.

He recalled that they visited a savings and loan association in Oroville, but does not recall the name of it, although [redacted] would probably know. To the best of his recollection, they returned to the Bay Area about 5:00 pm. He dropped [redacted] off at his car in Berkeley, and proceeded out the Nimitz Freeway toward San Leandro. It was at this time that he first heard of the killing of Dr. KING on his car radio.

In further support of his whereabouts, [redacted] said that when in San Leandro he frequently charges his gasoline at a Douglas Service Station on Marina Blvd. When traveling, he pays cash. He does not use a credit card. Whether charged to his account, or when paying cash, he usually obtains a purchase ticket. He throws these tickets in the glove compartment of his Cadillac where they are available if needed for his business records.

He located in his glove compartment the following charge tickets which he said recorded purchases at Douglas Service Station, Marina Blvd., San Leandro, both dated April 4, 1968:

Ticket #B 036026 dated 4/4/68 recording purchase of $5.00 of gasoline.

Ticket #3 36186 recording purchase of $4.55 of gasoline.

[redacted] said that undoubtedly he had put gas in the car in the morning when leaving for Oroville, and had put in gas upon his return that evening.

SF 173-65
WH:ay

A search of the available tickets failed to record any purchase of gasoline in the Oroville area, although [redacted] believed they must have purchased gasoline. He does not recall, but thought that perhaps [redacted] had paid for some gasoline in the area.

Relative to his whereabouts on March 29,30, 1968, [redacted] said that he does not recall specifically where he was. He stated that he tries to go to his home in Southern California every other weekend to visit his wife and 2 1/2 year old son. By consulting a calendar, he determined that this would have been the weekend when he normally visited his wife.

When he makes this trip, he normally leaves on Saturday morning, which in this instance would have been March 30, 1968. He sometimes drives and sometimes flies via Air California from Oakland, California Airport to Orange County Airport.

He searched his available gasoline tickets and could locate no record of purchases on March 29 or 30, 1968. This indicated to him that if he had visited his home in Southern California that weekend he had probably gone by air.

[redacted] was asked if he could establish his whereabouts on March 29 & 30, 1968 through other records. He said that his business records probably would not show such information, with the exception of his appointment book, which might give him a clue as to where he had been. He contacted his secretary and ascertained there were no notations in his appointment book for those dates.

He said that he has discontinued the use of a checking account due to several civil suits having been filed against him, so he could not establish his whereabouts by cancelled checks.

He does not use credit cards, whether for gasoline or airline travel. He examined numerous airline ticket folders which he found in his apartment. He said he makes no particular effort to save these. He found some undated and none for the pertinent dates. There were no copies of tickets.

SF 173-65
WH:ay

[redacted] advised that he makes numerous long distance telephone calls, business, personal and political in nature. He makes them from his business phone, [redacted], and from the phone in his apartment, [redacted]

He said his telephone bill for the period contains record of numerous long distance telephone calls which could definitely establish that he was in San Leandro on March 29, 1968 and probably on March 30, 1968. He furnished the following concerning these records:

March 29, 1968

10:13 am Telephone call to [redacted], Anaheim, California where he talked to an ex-business associate [redacted]

4:34 pm Telephone call to [redacted], Fullerton, California, where he talked to [redacted], brother of above [redacted]

3:49 pm Telephone call to [redacted], where he talked to Mr. MAYALL, State Chairman of the Committee directing AIP campaign in California. He believes this telephone number is no longer in use, but Mr. MAYALL can be reached through [redacted] in Bakersfield, which [redacted] believes is the home telephone of [redacted]

Collect telephone call, person to person, received by him from [redacted] who was calling from telephone [redacted] in Oroville, California. [redacted] does not have a telephone, so location of above phone is unknown to him. [redacted] can be located through the [redacted] in Oroville.

March 30, 1968

His telephone records reflect that at 12:11 pm, a call was placed from his office to [redacted], Roseville, California. He noted that this is the telephone number of his employee, [redacted] who works in San Leandro but returns to his home in Roseville on Friday evening for the weekend.

SF 173-65
WH:ay

[redacted] does not specifically recall making this call, and in reality it could have been made by any company employee. However, he sometimes handles Saturday business at the office so [redacted] can go home on Friday, and it is most likely that he is the one who made the call.

Since this is the last recorded call on Saturday, March 30, 1968, and since he is quite certain he visited his wife in Southern California on that weekend, he feels that shortly after this call he went to the Oakland Airport and got a flight to Orange County Airport.

He said he would have flown Air California Air Lines and since they make their reservations by name, this line should have a record of his having made such a trip.

He also volunteered information on a trip he had made back East. He said his mother-in-law, [redacted] Johnson City, Tennessee, died about two to three weeks prior to March 1, 1968. His wife had naturally gone back for the funeral. His wife remained there for two or three weeks after the funeral to clear up details of the death and the estate.

[redacted] said that he desired to visit his wife's relatives and to bring his wife back to California. He decided to drive his car back to Johnson City, and because of his interest in activities of the AIP, he decided to stop and confer with leaders of that party in Montgomery, Alabama.

He said that en route to Johnson City, he stopped in Montgomery on the night of February 27, 1968, at which time he stayed at the Holiday Inn, Midtown. Next day he drove to Johnson City, where he stayed a few days at [redacted]

On March 3, 1968, accompanied by his wife and small son, he was again in Montgomery en route to California. At this time, he stayed at the Town House Motel.

He next has record of a cash receipt from Cotton's Truck Stop, Las Cruces, New Mexico on March 5, 1968, which he said was for the purchase of gasoline on his return trip to California.

SF 173-65
WH:ay

[redacted] advised that he was born [redacted] He has been in California most of the time since 1945. He attended high school at Golden Gate Academy, which was at that time in Berkeley, California, but which moved to some hill area near Oakland. He is not sure it is still in operation. He graduated in 1947.

During the school year 1950-51 he attended La Sierra College in Riverside, California.

From 1951 to 1953 he was in the U.S. Marine Corps under MSN [redacted] Since 1953, he has worked as a salesman, principally in California, but actually traveling in numerous states.

He is married and his wife lives in Southern California. He said he is reluctant to furnish her specific address because he feels that reprisals against his wife and child are very possible because of his political activities in behalf of AIP should her address become generally known.

He said that he established a business in Sacramento, California in July, 1967, known as [redacted]

He came to San Leandro in December, 1967, and established his present business known as [redacted]

He is active in experimenting with gold dredging combined with skin diving, and spends some weekends in the Sierra stream areas searching for gold, or conducting experiments along those lines.

He also had interest in speculative investment in businesses in the Oroville area, which are in a depressed state due to departure of the workmen engaged in building the now completed Oroville Dam. He believed such property could be purchased cheaply and held until business picks up, insuring an excellent profit. He has abandoned this idea, at least temporarily.

SF 173-65
WH:ay

He said that he has no photo of himself at the present time due to theft of his billfold, with the exception of the photo on his driver's license, California [redacted]

[redacted]

He is described as:

Race	White
Sex	Male
Nationality	American
Date of birth	[redacted]
Place of birth	[redacted]
Height	5' 8"
Weight	220
Hair	reddish blond
Eyes	Grey-green
Build	Obese
Complexion	Light
Teeth	even & smoke stained

[redacted] volunteered that should further information or clarification be desired, he would be pleased to attempt to furnish such information.

SF 173-65
WH: cmj

LEADS:

KNOXVILLE

AT JOHNSON CITY, TENNESSEE: Verify death of [redacted] about February, 1968, and conduct investigation to establish presence of [redacted] in that city from about February 28, 1968 to March 3, 1968.

LOS ANGELES

AT ANAHEIM, CALIFORNIA: Locate [redacted] through telephone number [redacted] a business associate of [redacted] to verify telephone call he received from [redacted] 3/29/68.

AT FULLERTON, CALIFORNIA: Locate [redacted] brother of [redacted] to verify telephone call he recieved from [redacted] 3/29/68.

MOBILE

AT MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA: 1) Will check registration of Holiday Motel, Midtown, to verify presence of [redacted] in that city 2/27/68. (He drives 1967 Cadillac convertible, white canvas over light blue, California license [redacted].

2) Will verify that [redacted] and his wife stayed at Town House Motel night of 3/3/68.

SACRAMENTO

AT OROVILLE, CALIFORNIA: Will locate [redacted] through [redacted] to verify that [redacted] placed collect person to person call to [redacted] in San Leandro on 3/29/68, and talked to him.

SAN FRANCISCO

AT BERKELEY, CALIFORNIA: Will interview realtor [redacted] telephone number [redacted] to verify he took a trip with [redacted] to Oroville on 3/29/68.

SF 173-65
WH: cmg

AT OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA: At Oakland Airport, ascertain if [redacted] made trip to Orange County Airport on 3/30/68.

AT SAN LEANDRO, CALIFORNIA: Verify gas charges of [redacted] at Douglas Station, Marina Boulevard, on 4/4/68, and any record of charges on 3/29,30/68.